



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

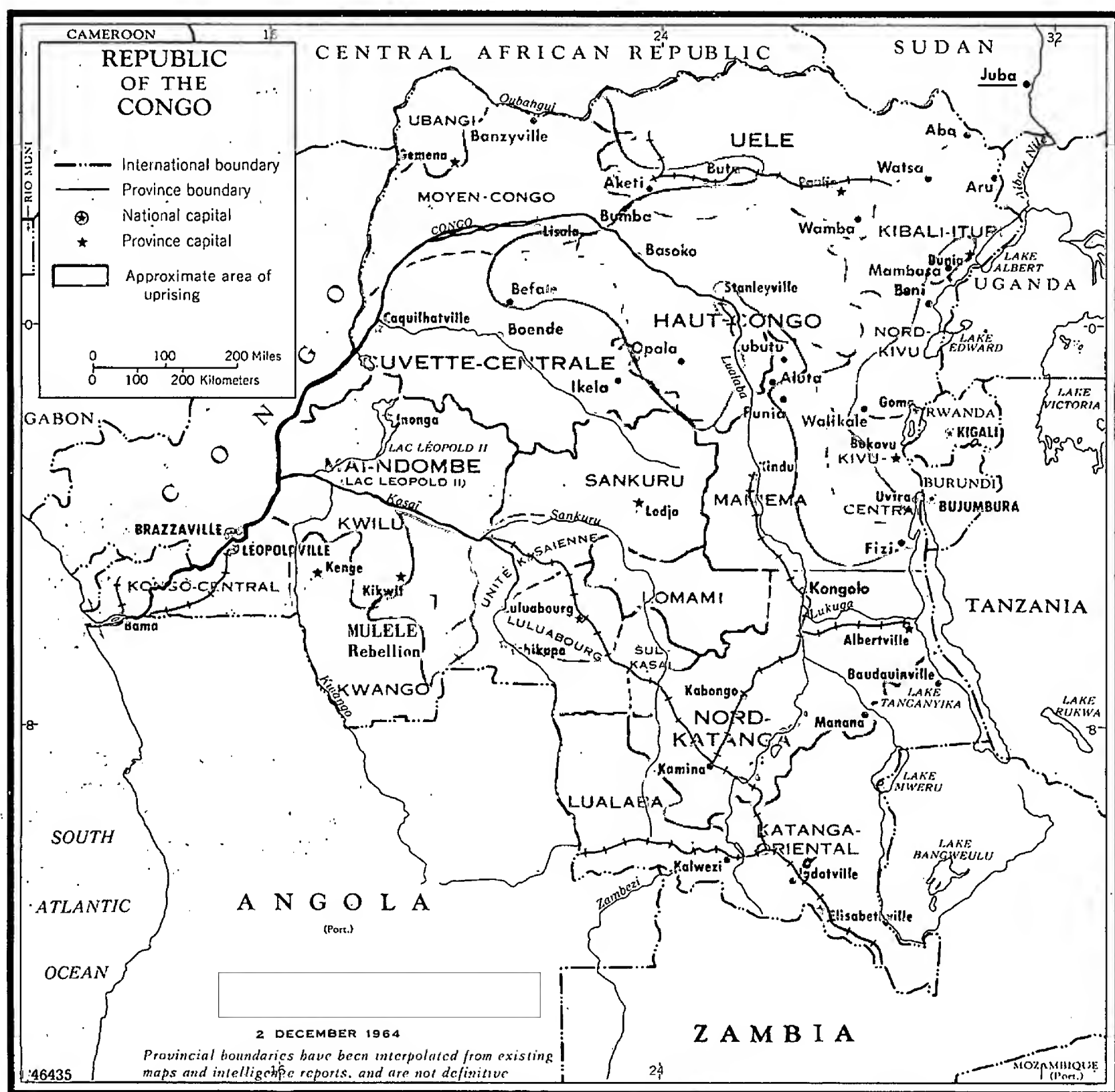
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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7 DECEMBER 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~



DAILY BRIEF
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1. Congo

Press reports today that Ben Bella has sent three planeloads of "volunteers" to aid the Congo rebels are not confirmed. The forty Algerians seen at the Khartoum airport on 4 December have not turned up since. Introduction of Algerian "volunteers" would probably prompt Tshombé, who is due in New York on Saturday, to ask for more US and Belgian aid. Further details are at Annex. (See map).

2. South Vietnam

The tempo of Viet Cong military activity seems to be picking up after a relative lull of some ten weeks. MACV reported 133 incidents, mostly small scale, during the period 3-5 December, and a battalion-sized action occurred yesterday. This increased pressure may be a sign of Viet Cong disappointment that greater political dislocation has not developed in Saigon.

3. USSR

Press accounts calling yesterday's Pravda's editorial a "broadside" against the Chinese are misleading. The editorial deals with domestic concerns and the role of the Communist Party, and does not appear intended as a direct attack on Peiping.

4. British Guiana

Polling in the general election has so far remained orderly. Because of the intricacy of the computations for proportional representation, the result probably will not be available until around noon on Wednesday.

5. Sudan

Rioting continued through this morning in Khartoum, but died down during the afternoon. Few injuries and no fatalities among the American community have been reported. Up to now the government has relied on the police, but has announced that troops are standing by to move at the next sign of trouble.

6. Ceylon

Unrest is growing because Mrs. Bandaranaike, whose government was overturned in Parliament last week, is delaying on announcing a date for new elections. She apparently has been toying with the idea of perpetuating her self in power by declaring a state of emergency, but has been rebuffed in this by security forces.

ANNEX

The Situation in the Congo

The introduction of Algerian "volunteers" would create an entirely new war. The government's success to date has largely been the product of the mercenaries, who man for man have been greatly superior to the rebels. It is doubtful that the mercenaries would be able, as presently constituted, to handle in addition any meaningful number of real soldiers from outside. The Algerians might well be able to help the rebels hold what they have and in time to regain the initiative from the government.

Tshombé's mercenaries already suffer from problems of morale and motivation. Casualties and desertions have thinned their ranks, and the pay for which they fight has often been late. So far this has not materially reduced their effectiveness, but these nagging problems would get rapidly worse in the face of a few setbacks.

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*Since the above was written, Spaak has told the press that Tshombé has assured Brussels that he would not apply his decree reappropriating Belgium's mining concession before talking the matter over with the Belgians next week.

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